



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

On patrol in Sha'ab

Local women continue to do their shopping while Sgt. Jeremy Stockdale (left) and Spc. Justin Hovatter, both with Company , 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, pull security during a patrol through the business district of the Sha'ab neighborhood of Baghdad's Adhamiyah District April 29.

Historic Abu Nuwas Market project underway

By Spc. Courtney Marulli
2-2 Inf. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - The historic Abu Nuwas Market in Baghdad was once a flourishing part of the city that provided a variety of shops, restaurants, lounges and hotels that people from around the world came to see.

Recently, the street was besieged with car bomb attacks and was shut down and closed off to the populace. Shop owners and restaurateurs either left the area or stayed and watched the area slowly deteriorate.

Under Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon,

also known as the Baghdad Security Plan, the Abu Nuwas Market is going to be re-opened for public use.

The rebuilding has begun. The hard work of dedicated Iraqis under the protection of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, currently operating as part of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is making this possible.

Maj. Anthony G. Judge, the executive officer for 1-504th PIR, said opening the market will help stimulate the economy by providing Iraqis with jobs and places to spend their money on various goods.

Allowing the Iraqis to create a flour-

ishing market is something they can take pride in. The project is not a coalition project. Instead, Judge said, it is a project planned, directed and executed by Iraqis.

Coalition forces are on hand to provide protection and offer advice. Protection is also provided by commercial contractors from Dyncorp. Since the barrier project is going to allow traffic to travel down streets again, Judge said plans are in the works to create a secondary route for Dyncorp vehicles to use.

Judge said the first phase of the project

Coalition, IA joint conference held on logistical future

By Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner
15th SB, PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Coalition advisors, senior Iraqi Army leaders and representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense concluded a two-day logistics here, April 25.

Commanders and logistical officers from the 6th and 9th Iraqi Army Divisions met with Coalition Military Assistance Training Team members to conduct rehearsals of concept drills for unit transportation, ammunition, life support and maintenance requirements.

According to Danish Navy Rear Adm. Niels Friis, CMATT deputy commanding general, the discussions are based upon a framework of logistical concepts approved March by the Iraqi joint headquarters and the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

At the strategic level, the IA support structure is built upon a national depot system, with regional support units placed in key geographic locations throughout the country. This differs from what U.S. Forces are used to, but it makes good sense, said Brig. Gen. Terry Wolff, CMATT commander.

Originally, the new Iraqi Army stood up ten divisions designed for counter-



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner 15th SB PAO)

Danish Navy Rear Adm. Niels Friis, deputy commander for CMATT, listens in on part of a life support discussion during a logistics rehearsal of concept drill on Camp Taji.

insurgency.

The RSU logistical system allowed for rapid support and sustainment for, essentially, 10 light-infantry divisions.

Participants spent the first day setting

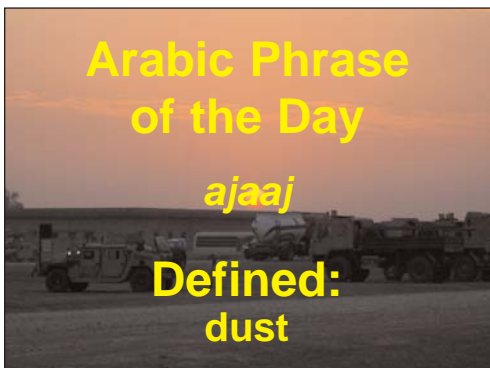
the framework of the concept drills. Day two combined coalition experts and Iraqi Ministry representatives to chair scenario based discussions designed to engage Iraqi logisticians.




It (the process) is very much designed about engagement checks; to see if they understand the procedures, Friis said. "This is just the beginning; Iraqi forces logisticians are a new community."

CMATT officials said that while Iraqi forces make improvements on a daily basis, a mature life support system is still one to two years away. However, support planners hope to see many of the life support contracts phase out next year, as the Iraqi army continues to grow and reorganize.

CMATT plans to conduct quarterly logistical concept drills again in August at all of the five RSU locations. Coalition members see these as professional development seminars; the end-state being Iraqi forces maintaining the difficult task of self-sustainment. Although the timeline is measured in months, coalition forces remain committed and optimistic.

"When the Iraqis put their mind to something, there is nothing that they can not do," Wolff said. "I'm just being flat-out honest."



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report			
	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
High: 92 Low: 68	High: 90 Low: 66	High: 91 Low: 66	

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(U.S. Army photo)

Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. speaks to Soldiers of the 610th Brigade Support Battalion after the unit's combat patch ceremony April 9 at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

Phoenix battalion rises for patches

By Capt. Allen Hill
610th Brigade Support Battalion

BAGHDAD- Soldiers of the 610th Brigade Support Battalion were awarded the 1st Infantry Division combat patch, April 6th, at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

The award ceremony, held at the Battalion Headquarters, recognized the Phoenix Battalion Soldiers who demonstrated continued excellence and service in support of ongoing operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the history of the battalion; it is the first time since the Vietnam War that the unit has been authorized the wear of the shoulder sleeve insignia of the Big Red One on the right shoulder.

The ceremony began with an opening prayer by Battalion Chaplain, Chap. (Capt.) Tim Brown, the singing of the national anthem and remarks from the Phoenix Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Robert Weaver, from Oxford, Pa.

Weaver spoke to the Soldiers on the importance of the ceremony and of their place in the 1st Infantry Division history.

"We take pride in continuing the history

of those who have fought before us," he said. "As we stand here on the 90th Anniversary of the United States entering World War I, fellow 1st Infantry Division Soldiers, 39 years ago, embarked on the largest operation of the Vietnam War. As we conduct our mission here, your accomplishments will be just as important as the 1st ID heroes that preceded us in Cantigny, on the beaches of Normandy or in the jungles of Vietnam."

For many Soldiers serving on their first deployment, this was a momentous occasion in their careers, as the Big Red One patch was affixed to their right shoulder by their leaders and they joined what Weaver called "...an elite fraternity."

The ceremony not only took place to recognize those that were currently deployed, but also to reflect on those who had served throughout our nation's history and made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Being a part of this unit and the history of the 1st ID is something that brings a lot of pride to me," said Spc. Tara Werth, from Markesan, Wis. "Seeing that patch on my right shoulder and understanding where it has been for others is a humbling experience. It makes me proud of what I do and who I serve with."

Baghdad in Brief

Cavalry troops respond to car bomb in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD - A car bomb detonated in the Karkh Security District of Baghdad, just outside Forward Operating Base Prosperity, at approximately 10 a.m. April 30.

Soldiers from Company B, 4th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, quickly responded to the scene with Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi Fire Department.

Eyewitnesses to the attack informed coalition and Iraqi security forces that they observed a 15-passenger van drive onto an underpass leading into a traffic circle. The van came to a stop and the driver quickly exited the vehicle, fleeing the scene as the van detonated.

As a result of the explosion, five Iraqi civilians were wounded. Three civilian vehicles were also damaged and one coalition checkpoint suffered minor window damage with no injuries. A large hole was left in a paved section of the traffic circle from the blast.

Iraqi and coalition forces cordoned off the area and secured the blast site.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

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1% 4% 31% 2% 1% 1%

1% 4% 31% 2% 1% 1%

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STAY ALERT --- STAY ALIVE

Abu Nuwas Market gets a facelift

Market

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is to create traffic control points where Iraqi security forces can check vehicles and where people enter. Side streets were blocked off by large cement barriers that are offset to allow pedestrians access, Judge said. The concrete barriers are a temporary measure until security improves in the area.

The project planning to get the Abu Nuwas Market up and running again pre-dated the Baghdad Operations Command, said Lt. Col. John Rudolph, the civil affairs officer for Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

"Actually, it was the Rusafa Command, Iraqi police and Iraqi Army, who has the lead for security of the Abu Nuwas Market project," Rudolph said.

"The 1-504th has area security as part of their patrol



(U.S. Army photos)

Iraqi artists create murals out of concrete security barriers near the Abu Nuwas Market in Baghdad April 18. More than 140 artists have been employed for this project.

area," he said.

One of the important factors is things need to be done right for the Iraqi people, but with the least amount of pain for them, Judge said.

The first day of the project went smoothly as the barriers were laid in place. Once

the entry control points are functioning and all the side streets blocked off to vehicles, the Iraqi people can once again feel free to walk down the street and shop in peace without the threat of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

"VBIEDs continue to hurt, but they are less frequent," Judge said.

The next challenge lies in getting the shop and restaurant owners to come back and start up their once-lively businesses.

Many of the paratroopers in the 1-504th who have helped oversee the placement of the temporary barriers and provided security to the Iraqi workers feel good that their contributions are going to help ensure this once-flourishing market opens up again.

Cpl. Patrick A. Baker, of HHC, 1-504th, a member of the personal security

detachment, said it feels great to be a part of the Baghdad Security Plan and to be able to watch the Abu Nuwas Market come back to life.

"Maybe tourists will be able to come back and I want to get pictures and show that I was there and helped," said the Florence, S.C., native.

Spc. Will M. Hedin, also of HHC, 1-504th and another member of the PSD, said it feels good to play a part in helping bring the market back to its former state.

The Chester, Conn., native said everyone would like to see the project move a little faster.

Overall, the famous Abu Nuwas Market is on its way to being open to the public and, with time, may once again become the tourist attraction it once was.



Coalition troops provide security for Iraqi artists as they create murals out of concrete security barriers near the Abu Nuwas Market in Baghdad April 18. More than 140 artists have been employed this project.

Aviation recovery team keeps aerial assets available

**By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert
1st ACB Public Affairs**

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - The efforts of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Downed Aircraft Recovery Team will eventually put a downed UH-60 Black Hawk back in the fight.

The aircraft, which went down April 5, cannot be repaired at the level of maintenance available in theater. Where the helicopter will be sent for repairs is up to Aviation and Missile Command, but it will be back in the fight, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Greer, Company B, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB.

The aviation brigade's DART team assessed the damage to the aircraft, and determined that the airframe was in good enough condition to slingload it back to Taji, said Greer, who hails from Lampasas, Texas.

According to Greer, there are three options of recovery available to the DART team when a helicopter goes down in Iraq: make repairs on site to fly the aircraft back to base, do an aerial recovery or perform a ground recovery.

There is also a fourth option, the least desirable -- destroy the aircraft at the site.

"That's obviously not something that we like to do," Greer said. "Sometimes that is determined for us."

If the condition of the aircraft is so bad that recovery is improbable, the wreckage is destroyed to prevent sensitive items and technology from getting into enemy hands and also to prevent its use as a propaganda tool.

"It is much better to have a black hole that's not identifiable, then the remains of an aircraft that can be identified and used in a (propaganda) campaign against coalition forces," he said.

In this case, the DART team used aerial recovery and sling-loaded the damaged Black Hawk back to Taji with a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

The 11-person recovery team flew out to the site to assess the aircraft and determine if the Black Hawk could be evacuated back to Taji. The team consists of

Soldiers trained to do a variety of jobs including repairs to the aircraft, using a variety of saws to gain access to the aircraft and even moving sensitive equipment from the downed aircraft to one of the recovery vehicles.

"Everybody within the team has a primary function, a secondary function and even a third function," Greer said. "As much as possible, we cross level across the team. If we have to remove one member from the team, or if one member doesn't make it out there or becomes a heat casualty or some other sort of casualty, somebody else can do that job. It's a combined team out there. It doesn't matter what your job is: you're going to be in there pulling dirt, ripping things apart, cutting things up and trying to load it up."

As the team assessed the aircraft at the site and prepared it for sling-loading, they had security from the U.S. ground forces, Greer said.

"Every time we get out there, we hit the ground, the security forces are there meeting us at the aircraft, and they escort us right to the downed aircraft," said Staff

Sgt Gary Osburn, Co. B, 615th ASB, who was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the DART team April 5. "I feel very, very safe out there when those guys are there."

When it came time to prepare the Black Hawk for the sling-load, the team put its training and experience to use.

"I would say at least half on the DART team have either air assault school or are very proficient on slingloads," said Osburn, from Talala, Okla.

"I've done tons of sling-loads. We give classes to the DART team on hand and arm signals, basic things to inspect on a load like fraying of a (slingload) leg. If you're in a hurry, rushing things, there are things you can't overlook. I've actually taken out some guys, hooked up the sling set and made some obvious mistakes on hooking up the shackles to see if they could spot them," he said.

The recovery was a total success, Greer said.

"The aircraft is here in one piece, no injuries to the DART team," he said. "You can't ask for anything more than that."



(Photo by Capt. Christian Ruddell 1st ACB)

Soldiers from the 1st ACB's Downed Aircraft Recovery Team prepare a Black Hawk helicopter for a recovery mission April 5. The helicopter had a forced landing southeast of Baghdad, and the DART team deployed to the site to assess the damage and recover the aircraft back to Camp Taji, Iraq.